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Housing Coalition Headlines

Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, NC

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In this issue:

- [Management Musings](#)
- [Splinters from the Board](#)
- [Volunteer Corner](#)
- [Grant Update](#)
- [2015 Winter Appeal](#)
- [Donation Box](#)
- [Closing Thoughts](#)

Management Musings

By Chris Brown, Executive Director

First, thank you to everyone for making 2015 such a successful year! The Community that is Community Housing Coalition has made 2015 a good year for "healthy, safe and affordable housing" through much "advocacy, education, and resource development!" We're looking forward to exciting and effective 2016!

Management musings will be back in the January Housing Coalition Headlines. Christopher is on vacation but wishes everyone a safe, healthy and joyful 2015/16 Holiday Season and asks that we all send some good cheer to our neighbors who may need a bit of light shone during this sometimes darkened time of year! Best to you and yours! Happy 2016!

Splinters from the Board

A Tale of Madison Heroes

By Jennifer Flynn

Brad is the typical hardworking dad. He spends his evenings working third shift so he can see his kids off to school and enjoy the early evening with them around the dinner table. His two kids, Kerry and

www.chcmadisoncountync.org

Find us on [Facebook!](#) Search "CHC Madison" then go to our page and "like" us.

Who We Are

CHC is a 501(c)(3) independent, non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board. CHC's mission is to promote and facilitate healthy, safe, and [affordable housing](#) in Madison County, NC.

Dakota, stay home with Grandma while Brad works. Brad's mother is aging, approaching 80, but still active enough to keep up with her 6 & 8 year old grandchildren. Brad also works on the weekends to make up for the loss of his wife's income. She passed away a couple of years ago.

Brad and his mother are doing what they can to raise the kids, staying in the community where Brad was raised in a trailer on his mother's property that had been her family home. The old homestead deteriorated and in the 1970's when trailers were the best, new, affordable housing option, it made sense to Brad's parents to put a new trailer in and move out of the house rather than maintaining and repairing it. 35 years later that same trailer is home to the four of them, spanning three generations.

During a warm fall week full of rain, Grandma begins to cough and then the kids, too, start wheezing. Brad knows something is wrong when repeated trips to the doctor show no relief in their symptoms. His mother becomes too ill to care for the kids, so he takes time from work to run the family to various doctors' appointments.

One evening in a moment of exhaustion and exasperation Brad looks up to the ceiling and notices a trickle of water running toward the paneled wall. He walks to the puddle on the floor that came with the heavy rains and notices a soft spot where the water has pooled. What is he going to do now? With lost paychecks, he is stressed about how to make the repair. As he looks closer at the ceiling he notices mold forming in the dark corner. Great. Another problem and one that he had heard could cause problems with breathing, but hadn't noticed until now.

At this point Brad didn't know what to do or where to turn. He called the health department first thing and started cleaning the mold. He didn't know what kind of mold it was, but was determined to make a dent in the cleaning. Without the [leaky roof](#) repaired, he knew this was only a temporary fix. He threw a tarp on the roof and prayed.

After a few moments he pulled out the piece of paper with the number to CHC that the health department had given him....

Enter the heroes of CHC! Brad and his family qualified to receive [repair](#) assistance, and fortunately, the staff was there to make it happen. Brad worked with CHC staff and volunteers to repair the roof and floor, while he paid special attention to cleaning the mold, which he discovered, was potentially contributing to his family's ill health.

The above is a fictionalized account, yet not so far from the reality of many families in Madison County. As 2015 nears to an end, realize that CHC is a band of heroes and those heroes need your continued financial support. Contribute now to keep the lights on, to keep the CHC Heroes in their [jobs](#), and support your Madison County neighbors who are heroes in their own families!

Volunteer Corner

We are still sorely missing June and will not have any updates this month. Until we hire a replacement for June, which is nearly impossible, please email:

VolunteerCoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org to convey your volunteer interests or updates. We expect to have a student intern assuming the volunteer coordination role during Spring Semester 2016 who will be checking that email address regularly. You can also continue to call 828-649-1200 regarding volunteer needs. CHC will keep you posted about long term plans for the Volunteer Coordinator position.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IS STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Sign Up for a 2016 NHN Workday While [Slots](#) are Open!

We invite local groups and individuals to sign up for NHN workdays still available in 2016. CHC provides supervision, tools and materials. New and former volunteers, and all skill levels, are welcomed. Volunteer groups who helped in 2015 are welcome to sign up again! All workdays are on a Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Project details and [directions](#) to worksites are sent during the week prior to the workday. Volunteers just bring a bag lunch and a commitment to help a neighbor for five hours. Call 649-1200 or email VolunteerCoordinator@chcmadisoncountync.org if you want to sign yourself or your group up for any of the available dates below. Join other local groups who are finding NHN Workdays to be a fun, teambuilding experience.

**NHN Workdays in 2016
(All Saturdays ~ 10 am to 3 pm) Volunteers Signed Up**

February 27	MHU Christian Student Ministries (HOLD)
March 19	4H of Madison County
April 16	
May 14	
June 11	
July 16	
August 27	
September 17	
October 15	
November 12	

Grant Update

By Chris Watson, Client and Grants Coordinator

As we close out 2015 we are also closing out our 2014-15 funding from the NC Housing Finance Agency's Urgent Repair Program. CHC was awarded \$100,000 in URP funding in August of 2014. In the past 16 months, CHC has served 41 households with urgent needs. These urgent repairs have included new wells, septic repairs, roof replacements, electrical upgrades, structural framing repairs and heating system repairs. CHC has matched the \$100,000 with over \$92,000 in in-kind donations of labor and materials. Neighbors Helping Neighbors was a huge part of our URP success, with 96 volunteers donating over 426 hours of labor.

In addition to our URP grant funding, we have assisted three families with major house rehabilitations using the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium's HOME funding. The rehabilitations included much needed housing repairs along with modifications to make the homes more accessible for the disabled residents. In 2015 these projects expended \$32,890 and were matched with 151 hours and \$4720 in in-kind donations of labor and volunteers.

Through these grants CHC is able to serve our neighbors in Madison County year-round with repairs that would otherwise go unattended. The CHC family and clients would like to thank all of you that have donated time and resources to CHC. These donations ensure CHC has the capacity to apply for and administer these program grants year after year. With your continued support CHC will continue to advance safe, healthy and affordable housing for our Madison County neighbors through 2016 and beyond.

2015 Winter Appeal

Thank you to the many individuals who've responded to CHC 2015 *Warm up the Winter* appeal! If you placed the letter in that abyss of an inbox on the corner of your desk, saying "I'll send something

later..." please go ahead and fill out that donor form, write a check, and get it in the mail today!

Donation Box



CHC is proud to be a United Way partner! As you make contributions to the United Way of Madison County, you can designate CHC as a recipient.

If you would like to make a donation to CHC directly, those donations are always welcome. You can mail a tax deductible gift to The Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, P.O. Box 1166, Marshall, NC 28753. Or visit our website at <http://www.chcmadisoncountync.org> to make a donation online.

Thank you!

Closing Thoughts

Old Saint Nick came just in the nick of time with large contributions from contributing businesses and organizations. We say thank you for the gifts received from:

- Blue Heron Whitewater - Rapids of gratitude for their Community Rafting Days, where Blue Heron takes all the profits from those days and donates them to 3 community nonprofits. Many thanks to Sandy Melton and the rest of the Blue Heron Family!
- The Dapplecroft Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation - Thank you Chris and Shirley Blidan for your recommendation!
- Shadyside Presbyterian - One of the many Summer Mission teams that CHC host every summer. Big thanks to Todd Leach and the rest of Shadyside Family!
- The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit - Wholly thanking these Madison Community Partners for continuing their undying dedication to Madison County and the continued generosity to CHC. Once again supporting CHC along with 2 other vital Madison County Nonprofits with the proceeds from the Unique Boutique at this years Heritage Festival!
- YOUR WINTER APPEAL CONTRIBUTION!

Forward
To A Friend

Community Housing Coalition • p.o. box 1166 • Marshall, NC 28753

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